



NEWS RELEASE

*** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ***

October 12, 2011

BC Federation of Labour Supports “Occupy Wall Street” Movement Call for Greater Economic Equality – Will Join October 15 Events

Vancouver, BC – Members of the BC Federation of Labour will gather at the Vancouver Art Gallery at 12:00 noon, Saturday, October 15th, in solidarity with the Occupy Wall Street movement’s call for good jobs, fair taxes and strong public services.

In a statement released today, Jim Sinclair, the President of the BC Federation of Labour said:

“Well paying jobs, fair taxation and strong public services built the Canada we know and love. For 20 years across Canada, real wages have stagnated, the richest Canadians have avoided billions in taxes, and successive governments have weakened public services. This has created a gap between rich and poor not seen in generations, and the gap is widening.

The Occupy Wall Street movement expresses an underlying desire for fairness, equality and opportunity in the economy and our society. The BC Federation of Labour stands in solidarity with that desire, and calls on the governments of British Columbia and Canada to act swiftly and decisively to narrow the gap.”

The BC Federation of Labour also announced that it will continue to support an ongoing peaceful occupation in Vancouver on these important issues.

Sinclair said that hundreds of similar events were being held across North America, in solidarity with the Occupy Wall Street movement and that members of the labour movement would be participating in events in communities throughout BC and Canada.

“This day is an opportunity for people around North America to clearly and peacefully express their desire for fairness and equality in our society and our economy.”

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For more information contact Michael Gardiner 778-836-2108.

MG/smo
0500-11pr-MG Occupy Wall Street Oct 15





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Statement from the B.C. Federation of Labour on Occupy Wall Street

Global economic uncertainty is shining a bright light on the rapidly growing gap between rich and poor in North America and around the world. In the United States, the consequences have been widespread and severe. Real unemployment is approaching 20 percent. People are losing their homes to foreclosures. And, for the first time in generations, few young Americans believe their lives will be as prosperous and secure as their parents.

Here, well paying jobs, fair taxation and strong public services built the Canada we know and love. For 20 years across Canada, however, real wages have stagnated, the richest Canadians and corporations have avoided billions in taxes, and successive governments have weakened public services. This has created a gap between rich and poor not seen in generations, and the gap is widening.

The Conference Board of Canada has identified that Canada had the second largest rate of income inequality growth among peer nations from the mid-1990's to the mid-2000's. Clearly, many of the same conditions that have lead to the Wall Street action exist in Canada as well.

In British Columbia, a decade of tax cuts for the richest British Columbians and corporations combined with stagnant wages for average income earners have left British Columbia families struggling to make ends meet and nervous about their futures. As the cost of living has increased, household debt has piled up and savings eroded. This has got to stop.

The Occupy Wall Street movement expresses an underlying desire for fairness, equality and opportunity in the economy and our society. The B.C. Federation of Labour stands in solidarity with that desire, as part of the 99 percent, and calls on the governments of British Columbia and Canada to act swiftly and decisively to narrow the gap. The BC Federation of Labour will support an ongoing peaceful occupation in Vancouver on these important issues.

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